



NORTH TIDWORTH

GAOL DELIVERY AND TRAILBASTON TRIALS 1275-1306 Public Record Office - Justices Itinerant

Trailbaston was a special type of itinerant judicial commission first created during the reign of Edward 1 of England and used many times thereafter during the reigns of Edward 11 and Edward 111, primarily to punish felonies and trespass at the king's suit. The first trailbaston commissions date back to 1305, when Edward 1 directed several teams of justices to visit each English county and seek presentments for felonies (homicide, theft, arson, and rape) and certain trespasses (premeditated assault, extortion, and violent disseising). Edward I added conspiracy to the list of presentments in late 1305. In 1307 Edward I issued a revamped trailbaston commission that directed the justices to try assizes and deliver all prisoners in the counties they visited, not just those charged in previous trailbaston sessions. The 1307 trailbaston commission also directed justices to audit local compliance with the Statute of Winchester and to investigate local efforts to arrest felons.

The declared intention of the trailbaston commissions was to combat increasing levels of violence and public disorder, but an added bonus for the crown was the revenues brought by forfeiture, which was the punishment for conspiracy.

Ambesbury. Robert, servant [of William cancelled] de Grafton, William de Estbur', John de Borbache, taken at the suit of Richard Overhend by pledge of John Batecok, Roger Melewy, and William le Tayllor and sent by John Smethemer, steward of the earl of Lincoln's hundred of Ambesbury, for a ploughshare, price 3 pence bought at Tudeworth, whereon Tuddeworth town is answerable. (Plea Not Guilty Overhend does not prosecute. So to be taken and his pledges amerced.

William Walraunt of Todesworth, for slaying Hugh le Yrreys at Toddeworthe Wyltes'

Still of the pleas of indictments of the county of Wyltes', at New Salisbury, Thursday before Whitsun 33 Edw. I [3 June 1305].

The sheriff was charged to take William le Bray of Fordyngbrygg, John Schakestaf, John Mymekan, William Mortimer, who was the hayward of Damerham, John de Chestre, John Cryket, Robert le Messor of Gillyngham, Roger le Yonge, Sampson of Whethull, John le Hayward, of Sutton, Walter le Hayward, of Norton, Osbert le Sacker, Robert Springham, Roger Botevilayn, Ralph de Combe, Walter de Westwell, John Flemyng of Comb, John son of John Benet, Gilbert le Bonde, Roger son of Roger atte Dene, Robert son of William le French, Roger his brother, John Chaceben son of William Samond of [?] Tyd[er]lye, John son of John Gilberd of Northhavene, Peter le Harlyppede, William who was the forester in la Bocholt, Thomas Ruges, chaplain, Adam his son, John Curteys of Laverkestok, **William Walrond of Tuddeworth**, William son of William de Wyk, Richard his brother, Agnes, wife of Richard le Scherer of Marleberg.[and to] keep them safe, seize their chattels in his bailiwick into the king's hand, and have them before the justices at this day to answer for felonies against the peace whereon they were indicted before the justices. The sheriff, however, seized the chattels of John de Wynterburn (2 shillings), Richard Alfred (7shillings and 2 pence), William Walrond (10shillings.),

Information courtesy of the Wiltshire Record Society